Contextualizing Corm
AUB celebrates the art of Lebanese painter Georges Daoud Corm

Relief in Site
Relief efforts bring shelter, education, and medical aid to Syrian refugees

Excavating the Future
Akram Zaatari (BAR ’89) reimagines images and reinvents cultural artifacts

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Bringing warmth, education, and medical aid to Syrian refugees.

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MasterCard Foundation scholars discover the hidden rewards of helping those with less.

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FHS brings national attention to the toxic work conditions of child laborers.

Case by Case
HSON students join with UNICEF and the Lebanese Ministry of Health in a nationwide polio vaccination campaign to help the youngest and most vulnerable refugees.
The Power of a Toothbrush

“I could not believe a simple toothbrush could make a child so happy. It was not about cleaning his teeth, it was the sense of ownership.”

AUB’s first cohort of 15 MasterCard Foundation (MCF) scholars (see MainGate, winter 2012) underwent a transformative experience during their recent four-week summer volunteer program. Their quotes tell it all.

“At the beginning, they were just kids, but they soon became my kids from whom I learned to face life with a smile.”

After receiving training at the Faculty of Health Sciences in life skills and community intervention methods, and identifying personal goals, they took up assignments in children’s summer camps run by the Lebanese NGO Mouvement Social.

“We thought at the beginning we will teach children general health principles but actually at the end they taught us lessons for life.”

Working in some of Beirut’s poorest neighborhoods, St. Simon (Ouzai), Bourj Hammoud, and Nabaa, they encountered poverty and deprivation on a major scale. Tackling a gamut of problems from violence to illiteracy, this was a formative experience and a milestone in the MCF scholars’ personal evolution.

"The summer project made us realize that our mission should be to look for the causes behind our misery and eradicate them. It is our commitment to our societies that will distinguish us not the position or job we occupy."

Confronting issues including conflict and hygiene, while holding the attention of 70 unruly children, is a big challenge even for the most experienced teachers, yet it is one most of the MCF scholars would be happy to do again.

“I not only gave to them, but I also took a lot… Every time I looked in those kids’ eyes, the first question I had was, “what would I ask to learn or to have if I was in their place?”

-M.A.